

clubs and 200,000 members in 60 countries worldwide.

During the past 75 years, Toastmasters International has performed a valuable service for its members and those who hear its message of opportunity, initiative and good fellowship by assisting in the development of essential communications skills. One of the Toastmasters' most remarkable, yet challenging, efforts has been the formation of clubs within prisons to teach inmates how to effectively communicate to others and accept criticism. I am especially proud of the Sabine River Toastmasters in Orange, Texas.

One year ago, the Sabine River Toastmasters formed a club in the LeBlanc Prison, which is located in Jefferson County in East Texas. This club has been responsible for numerous success stories during the past year, and I am confident that the inmates of East Texas will continue to benefit from this encouragement and assistance in the development of improved communication skills for many more years to come.

The ability to speak in a clear and effective manner is a powerful and important skill that can help all Americans overcome barriers to effective performance in virtually every endeavor and line of work. With the guidance of Toastmaster members, inmates are becoming better communicators with a greater sense of confidence, self-esteem and self-respect, and they are therefore better prepared and qualified for employment after being released from prison. Not only are the inmates encouraging and inspiring each other to become better citizens, but they are also taking active roles in the lives of our Nation's youth by discouraging them from repeating the same mistakes they made by joining gangs or using drugs and alcohol.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 35 to 40 percent of all released prisoners are re-arrested within the first 12 months of release. Of the LeBlanc Toastmasters' 55 released alumni, 2 have been re-arrested, which is one tenth of what the statistics would have predicted. I would like to applaud the Sabine River Toastmasters for helping these 53 men who have built new lives for themselves after being released from prison.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that you join me and our colleagues in celebrating the week of October 17, 1999, as Toastmasters Week and recognizing the many opportunities in communication and public speaking that Toastmasters International, and specifically the Sabine River Toastmasters, have promoted and realized for East Texans and Americans all across the nation.

IN HONOR OF JOHN BIG DAWG
THOMPSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Big Dawg Thompson.

John Big Dawg Thompson, legendary Cleveland Browns superfan, is the heart and soul of the Cleveland Browns and the Cleve-

land Browns' Dawg Pound. Nationally recognized, Big Dawg's passion for the Cleveland Browns has touched the spirit of football fans everywhere. Members of Congress have even felt Big Dawg's devotion when he testified before a House committee as the Browns fan who could best convey the trauma to fans from the teams' sudden move to Baltimore.

Driven by heartfelt emotion and determination, Big Dawg served further as a crucial player in saving the team's name and colors and in bringing the Browns back to Cleveland. Big Dawg's big heart was never silenced throughout the years Cleveland was deprived of a team. Due in large part to his efforts, the Cleveland Browns are now back.

Celebrated as one of football's most famous fans, Big Dawg was inducted this year into the Visa Hall of Fans at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Big Dawg's role evolved back in 1985 when he donned a dog mask after Browns players Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield coined the term Dawg Pound to refer to the barking bleacher fans at the old Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Soon thereafter, the media discovered Big Dawg influencing Browns backers everywhere to wear, not only orange and brown, but dog masks and dog collars. With a new meaning to Cleveland's home field advantage, the Dawg Pound became an explosive force in leading the Browns to victory.

Not just a football fan, Big Dawg also serves as a community leader and a devoted family man. As a kid-friendly fellow, Big Dawg has made numerous appearances at local schools and local events. He is also featured on the box of his new Big Dawg Crunch cereal. Big Dawg has even earmarked royalties from cereal sales to go toward the American Diabetes Association and the Lomas Brown Jr. Foundation. Congratulations to Big Dawg for his charitable services, his devotion to his family, and for being the Cleveland Browns' number one fan. Keep the tradition alive!

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring John Big Dawg Thompson.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
TERRY LEE PAUL, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to recognize Brigadier General Terry Lee Paul, the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. General Paul retired from active duty on Friday, October 1st, after 30 years of exceptional service in the Corps.

For the last 10 years, General Paul has been in charge of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. During this time, many Members of Congress and staff have come to know General Paul as a very reliable and articulate spokesman for the Corps. His straightforward approach and extensive knowledge of policy and programs has especially been of great benefit to those of us on the Armed Services Committee. Through the effective

communication efforts of General Paul, the Congress has become familiar with the details of important programs, which are essential to the mission of the Marine Corps, such as, the V-22 Program, the Advanced Assault Amphibious Vehicle, the KC-130J, and the Maritime Pre-positioned Force-Enhancement, among others. General Paul has tirelessly endeavored to inform Members and staff on issues ranging from the capabilities, technological advances, concepts of operations, and funding requirements of necessary programs, to the basic needs of Marines in the field and of their families on base.

Although, General Paul is well known for his in-depth knowledge of the legislative issues and operational requirements of the Marine Corps, he is also greatly respected as a dedicated leader, who possesses a deep and abiding passion for what it means to be a Marine. General Paul is, above all, a Marine of unquestionable devotion to duty, impeccable integrity, absolutely sound character, and dedication to professionalism. Through his assignments as a Senator Liaison, a Special Assistant to the Commandant, and, finally, as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant, General Paul has always effectively communicated the message of "making Marines and winning battles." Because of the efforts of General Paul, the United States Marines Corps is better equipped and more prepared to carry out its mission in these demanding times.

As Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, I have a special appreciation for the outstanding work that General Paul has done. His involvement in briefings and hearings before the House, as well as in Congressional Delegation travel to points around the world, has ensured that these activities were carried out in an efficient and instructive manner. General Paul has set a high standard for others to emulate. His total devotion to the Corps is evident in every action that he has taken, and he is to be commended on his more than thirty years of exemplary service to our Nation. I would like to wish General Paul and his lovely wife, Sharon, much continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Pistoresi, Sr. for 50 years of perfect attendance at the Chowchilla Rotary Club.

Larry Pistoresi, Sr. has been a member of the Chowchilla Rotary Club since the day it was chartered in 1946. Pistoresi is an active auto retail salesman, but has been able to keep perfect attendance for 50 years. Perfect attendance did not mean that you had to attend all the local Rotary meetings. It you had to miss a local meeting, you could make that meeting up at another Rotary club in a different town. Through the years, Larry Pistoresi has attended Rotary meetings in 20 different states. In fact, planning a vacation for the

Pistoresi's was quite an ordeal. Vacations were planned around Rotary meetings. Larry would get the Rotary director out to see where and when the Rotary meetings were to be held.

Pistoresi also has a family history of perfect attendance in the Rotary. His dad, Pete Pistoresi, a charter member of the Chowchilla Rotary Club, also received the perfect attendance award. Pistoresi said when he first joined, his dad kept after him to have perfect attendance. After the first two years of perfect attendance he was challenged to keep on going. The father and son team are the only tow in the local club to receive the award. The former president of the Chowchilla club said his goal is to keep his perfect attendance to the day he is forced to quit.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Larry Pistoresi for his perfect attendance at the Chowchilla Rotary Club. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Larry many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL PARKS AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 717, the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 1999.

Although this bill does not go as far as I would like, particularly with respect to overflights in National Parks in Hawaii, H.R. 717 is a step in the right direction.

For years I have received complaints from people who visit National Parks in Hawaii seeking to appreciate its serenity and ambience only to be agitated by the pesky and noisy buzzing of aircraft overhead. In response, I introduced legislation, H.R. 482, to limit the adverse impacts of commercial air tour operations on National Parks in the State of Hawaii. My bill establishes specific guidelines, setting minimum altitudes and standoff distances, for National Parks in Hawaii. I believe certain parks must be declared flight-free, spared from intrusive noise, and maintained as calm refuges for the enjoyment of all.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor my bill, H.R. 482, and establish certain flight-free zones over National Parks in Hawaii so that we may all enjoy the whole experience of visiting a National Park.

In the meantime, H.R. 717 will make several improvements upon the current situation of overflights in National Parks.

H.R. 717 requires the National Park Service to work with the Federal Aviation Administra-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

tion and with the input of both the public and air tour operators, to prepare air tour flight management plans at each national park. Air tours would be prohibited unless the operators comply with the park's air tour overflight management plan. To insure that the plans are fair and comprehensive, the bill also calls for a study of the effects overflights have on park visitors on the ground.

Our National Parks should be enjoyed by all. For many, noise pollution ruins the National Park experience just as spare tires and empty soda cans littered beneath the trees would. I support cleaning up the noise at National Parks and urge immediate passage of H.R. 717, the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 1999.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, October 1999 has been designated as National Cooperative Month. I rise today to call attention to the thousands of cooperatives in the United States and to the thousands of Americans who benefit from membership in a co-op.

Some 40 percent of all Americans belong to a cooperative of one kind or another. Cooperatives bring people together to meet a common goal or need. There are cooperatives to provide electricity and telephone service to rural areas, cooperatives to help farmers market their goods, consumer cooperatives, and credit union cooperatives, to name but a few.

In Missouri, electric co-ops serve approximately 450,000 meters, representing over 1,380,000 people. Nearly 20 small, rural telecommunications providers have received financing from a cooperative to ensure that all rural Missourians have access to reliable telephone and other telecommunications services at an affordable price. There are also more than 1 million credit union cooperative members in Missouri.

Cooperatives allow people to band together and through the strength of numbers achieve what individuals could not accomplish alone. Members gain access to specific services, to marketing power, or to purchasing power. Unlike other businesses, cooperatives operate at cost and income that is not retained for cooperative operations is returned to the members.

In recognition of National Cooperative Month, I congratulate our nations' cooperatives for their continued service to members in Missouri and throughout the nation.

October 5, 1999

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment in the process that led to the consideration of the Conference Report for H.R. 1906 in the House of Representatives today. While I intend to vote for this legislation, the leadership in the House has chosen to ignore the wishes of this body on two counts.

First, we selected conferees, knowledgeable Members who have proven themselves in this process, who should have been allowed to represent the House during the conference on H.R. 1906. In the end, however, the conferees were shut out of the process and the final version of the conference report was developed by House leadership, behind closed doors.

Second, this House voted just last week, by an overwhelming majority, to mandate the Option 1A pricing scheme for dairy. H.R. 1402, the bill that I strongly supported and was proud to cosponsor, passed this House on September 22, 1999, by a vote of 285 to 140. While many other elements of the farm crisis were addressed in the conference report, and I am pleased that over \$8 billion has been directed for disaster assistance, why was the dairy crisis ignored? Why wasn't the issue of dairy even allowed to be brought to the table during conference negotiations? I am disappointed that H.R. 1402 is not included in the conference report. Our dairy farmers deserve more.

Mr. Speaker, despite these problems, I am pleased to announce that several special grants that are critical for Michigan agriculture will be funded again this year at their Fiscal Year 1999 levels. The following grants, many of which are executed at the world-class land grant institution in my district, Michigan State University, have been funded at their Fiscal Year 1999 levels: Improved Fruit Practices, Wood Utilization, Potato Research, Apple Fireblight, and Sustainable Agriculture. Overall, the positive provisions included in the conference report allow me to support it, but the process that brought us to this point has been deeply flawed and I am very disappointed that the House has not included H.R. 1402 in this legislation.